

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended by granting an interview which was held by telephone on June 5, 2006. During the interview, applicant discussed with the Examiner the differences between the subject invention and the two cited Jaeger references.

In this regard, applicant pointed out to the Examiner that the Jaeger references do not teach a three tube arrangement having an inner tube (6) as shown in Fig. 1 which is located in the reaction tube (3) for dividing the reaction tube (3) into the storage compartment to store catalyst and a cavity and for forming a first passageway between the inner tube and the surrounding reaction tube. A central tube (7) is disposed almost in the center of each inner tube (6) for forming a second passageway between the central tube and the inner tube with the central tube having an upper end open to the upper chamber and extending downwardly a fixed distance. The unreacted gas flows from the upper end into the second passageway and then through the first passageway into the storage compartment. This three tube arrangement is not shown in either of the Jaeger references no matter how broadly the Jaeger references are interpreted.

Claim 4 has again been amended so that it is now very clear that the assembly includes three tubes as above described, wherein the length of the center tube is between $1/10$ to $2/3$ of the length of the reaction tube for adjusting the relationship of the first and second passageways to provide temperature control of the catalyst bed stored in the storage compartment. Moreover, as now recited in claim 4, the reacted gas flows from each catalyst bed through the lower chamber directly into the outlet end of the reactor and does not flow into yet another catalyst assembly.

Based upon the above amendment to claim 4, applicant now believes the claims are clear and distinct and distinguish over the teaching in Jaeger et al.

The rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph and under 35 USC 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. Applicant has amended claim 4 with the objective of clarifying the invention to meet the written description requirement of 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs. Claim 4 is now believed to be definite and to comply with all of the requirements. Although applicant has made a relatively large number of changes to claim 4, most of the changes represent a rearrangement of the language to clarify earlier ambiguities and to make the claim more definite. No new matter has been entered into the claim.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

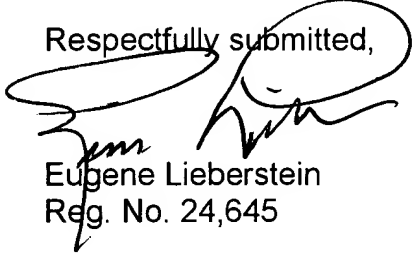
Applicant believes that the earlier amendment of claim 4 has been misunderstood and has been revised accordingly. It should now be clear from claim 4 that each reaction tube has an inner tube disposed within the reaction tube which divides the reaction tube into a storage compartment for storing a separate bed of catalyst and a cavity and forms a first passageway. It should be understood that the inner tube is not open to the upper chamber. The central tube is placed within the inner tube and has an upper end open to the upper chamber and forms a second passageway. Adjustment of the length of the central tube controls the relationship between the first and second passageways to provide temperature control of the catalyst bed stored in the storage compartment of each reaction tube respectively.

This arrangement is clearly different from the arrangement taught in Jaeger USP 1,945,353 and in Jaeger 1,660,511. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner, upon review of the claim language, wish to discuss claim 4 further, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 212-278-1307.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 4 and 5 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 7, 2006.


L. Felicetti

Date: June 7, 2006